

99C-138<sup>2</sup>  
Parcel A

## II. Executive Summary

### a. Project Title and Applicant Name

Title: Colusa Basin Watershed Project

Applicant: Colusa Basin Drainage District  
Colusa County Resource Conservation District

### b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The Colusa Basin Drain Watershed project will serve as a watershed management project that assists private landowners in reactivating important ecological processes and functions of riparian corridors and associated rangeland and wetland, addressing non-point source pollution, flood control issues, exotic invasive weed abatement. The project will consist of 6 selected sites which will implement riparian enhancement and restoration practices to existing degraded riparian corridors and associated wetlands and rangeland to reduce the amount of surface runoff, chemical residues, and sediments flowing into the Colusa Basin Drain and Sacramento River while restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat. The project will also address exotic invasive riparian and wetland weed species such as *Arundo donax* and *Tamarix chinensis* which occur in the Colusa Basin Watershed. Each cooperating site will have a Resource Management System (RMS) plan developed utilizing an ecosystem based planning approach, and will include a three-year contract with the landowner, who will receive 75% cost-sharing for practices implemented.

### c. Approach/Task/Schedule

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District (CRCD) is the lead agency in a partnership with the Colusa Basin Drainage District (CBDD) for the proposed Colusa Basin Watershed Project. The CBDD will assist with the administration, outreach, and planning which includes existing study and planning throughout the Colusa Basin Watershed. The CRCD has an MOU with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Via the MOUs, NRCS staff will provide part-time assistance with all phases of the project. The CRCD has recently acquired additional MOUs with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited and will seek other MOUs during the first year with other cooperating agencies and arrange for staff to manage the project. A Steering Committee will be created, and will have the role of overseeing the project and provide public participation. The project is scheduled to begin January 1, 2000 and be completed on January 1, 2003.

Project tasks include:

Task 1: Project Management & Administration

Task 2: Public Participation

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- Task 3: Select Cooperating Sites
- Task 4: Establish Monitoring Sites
- Task 5: Baseline Resource Data
- Task 6: Develop RMS Plans
- Task 7: Schedule Workshops and Tours
- Task 8: Implement RMS Plans
- Task 9: Conduct Workshops and Tours
- Task 10: Prepare Final Report

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

As documented in the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, "Long term ecological health of the Delta depends on the health of its component parts." The improvements made to The Colusa Basin Ecological Management Zone through this project and in the future offer a great opportunity to make a contribution to the health of the Bay Delta. The benefits of this project include improved water quality for all beneficial uses, improvement and expansion of available aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat. This project is expected to benefit aquatic habitat in general by enhancing, restoring, and creating healthy riparian corridors and associated wetland and rangeland through promoting shaded riverine habitat, in-stream aquatic habitat, riparian buffer strips, perennial grass cover on rangeland, and native wetland habitat. In addition, it will improve surface water infiltration, reducing runoff, and sedimentation. Moreover, this project will improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. Priority species expected to benefit from this project include: Winter-run Chinook salmon, Spring-run Chinook salmon, Late-fall run Chinook salmon, Steelhead trout as well as Green sturgeon. Secondary priority species receiving benefits will include striped bass and migratory birds.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

a. <u>Budget Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CALFED Contribution</u>
A. Personnel Services	\$250,000	\$160,000
B. Operating Expenses	\$6,500	\$6,500
C. Property Acquisitions	\$0	\$0
- Equipment	\$7,000	\$7,000
- Portable Assets	\$0	\$0
- Data Processing Equipment	\$3,000	\$3,000
- Misc., other	\$2,000	\$2,000
D. Professional and Consulting Services	\$8,000	\$9,000
E. Monitoring	\$12,000	\$12,000
F. Implementation-RMS	\$375,000	\$275,000